

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated November 3, 2005, and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended and Claims 6-11 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to require components (A2) and (A4) to exclusively contain isocyanate-reactive groups selected from the group consisting of –OH and –NH groups. Support for the amendment to component (A2) is found in the specification at page 7, line 31 through page 10, line 11, in particular at page 8, lines 2-4 and 14-16, wherein only –OH or –NH groups are disclosed as suitable isocyanate-reactive groups.

Additional support for this amendment is found in the examples of suitable compounds for use as component (A2) wherein only compounds containing –OH or –NH groups are disclosed as being suitable. As amended, component (A2) still covers all of the disclosed polyamines and polyols such as those set forth at page 8, lines 5-9, e.g., polyether polyols, polyester polyols, polycarbonate polyols, polyester carbonate polyols, polyester amide polyols, polyamide polyols, epoxy resin polyols and their reaction products with CO₂, poly(meth)acrylate polyols, polyacetal polyols, saturated and unsaturated, unfluorinated and fluorinated hydrocarbon polyols and polysiloxane polyols.

Support for the amendment to component (A4) is found in the specification at page 11, line 22 through page 13, line 11, wherein only compounds containing –OH or –NH groups are disclosed as being suitable for use as component (A4).

Claims 1-5 and 12 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 2001/77200 to Kagerer et al, which is believed to correspond to U.S. Patent Application 2003/0124357. The Examiner contends that compounds containing one thiol group and two hydroxyl groups are not excluded by the subject claims.

Applicants traverse this rejection in view of the amendments to Claim 1 to require components (A2) and (A4) to exclusively contain isocyanate-reactive groups selected from the group consisting of –OH and –NH groups. Components (A2) and

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(A4) are the only components that could have previously read on the compounds containing two hydroxyl groups and one thiol group, which were relied upon by the Examiner. Component (A3) requires the compounds to contain ionic or potential ionic groups, which are not disclosed by Kagerer et al. Component (A5) requires monofunctional compounds or, if compounds containing isocyanate-reactive groups having different reactivity to isocyanate groups are present, then component (A5) is limited to compounds containing primary and secondary amino groups or compounds containing hydroxyl and amino groups. These types of compounds are not disclosed by Kagerer et al.

In view of the amendments to the subject claims to exclude the presence of thiol groups, it is submitted that the subject claims are not anticipated by Kagerer et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Applicants submit that this amendment was not presented earlier because Applicants believed that their previous response excluded thiol groups from the claims. The present amendment was necessitated by the Examiner's comments in the final rejection. This amendment will not require further search or consideration by the Examiner since it is directed to the only issue remaining in the case, i.e., the exclusion of thiol groups from the isocyanate-reactive groups used to prepare the polyurethane.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2005, and in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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